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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/848,777	05/04/2001	Zuheir L. Audeh	CBR-001XX	6632

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09/16/2002

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EXAMINER

PADMANABHAN, KARTIC

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1641

DATE MAILED: 09/16/2002

6

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/848,777

Applicant(s)

AUDEH ET AL.

Examiner

Kartic Padmanabhan

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 July 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-49 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-49 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claims 1-15 and 30-32, drawn to a liquid composition, classified in class 436, subclass 518.
 - II. Claims 16-21 and 30-32, drawn to another liquid composition, classified in class 435, subclass 4.
 - III. Claims 22-29, drawn to a microporous matrix system, classified in class 436, subclass 524.
 - IV. Claims 33-37, drawn to a microarray, classified in class 435, subclass 969.
 - V. Claim 38, drawn to another microarray, classified in class 435, subclass 970.
 - VI. Claims 39-40, drawn to another microarray, classified in class 422, subclass 68.1.
 - VII. Claims 41-42, drawn to another microarray, classified in class 422, subclass 50.
 - VIII. Claims 43 and 47, drawn to a method and kit for detecting a biomolecule, classified in class 435, subclass 7.1.
 - IX. Claims 44 and 48, drawn to a method and kit for detecting a drug candidate, classified in class 435, subclass 7.92.
 - X. Claim 45, drawn to a drug molecule, classified in class 436, subclass 815.
 - XI. Claims 46 and 49, drawn to a method and kit for determining a nucleic acid sequence, classified in class 435, subclass 6.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

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2. Inventions I and II are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the different inventions are different compositions. The replicate copies of biomolecule of Invention I are not required of Invention II.

3. Inventions I and III are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because another composition could also be deposited on the support and used for the detection of biomolecules. The subcombination has separate utility such as being used directly for sample analysis.

4. Inventions IV-VII are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the different inventions are all microarrays with differing components. The variation of matrix material concentration between spots of Invention IV is not required of Invention V-VII. Similarly, the independent determination of matrix material in various spots of Invention V is not required of Inventions IV, VI, or VII. The spot thickness of less than 10uM of Invention VI is not required of the other inventions, and the specific diameter and volume of the spots of Invention VII is not required of Inventions IV-VI.

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5. Inventions VIII, IX, and XI are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the different inventions are all methods and kits with different functions. Invention VIII is drawn to biomolecules detection, while Invention IX is drawn to detection of a drug candidate, and Invention XI is used to detect a nucleic acid sequence.

6. Invention X is unrelated to Invention I-IX and XI. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case, the drug molecule of Invention X is not required of any of the other Inventions.

7. Invention IV is related to Inventions VIII, IX, and XI as product and processes of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case, the microarray (product) of claim 33 can be used in a number of different detection methods, including, but not limited to the methods of Inventions VIII, IX, and XI, and is not exclusive to any one method.

8. Inventions VIII, IX, and XI are unrelated to Inventions I-III and V-VII. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case, Inventions VIII, IX, and XI (which are distinct for reasons previously discussed), do not require the compositions of Inventions I or II, the matrix of

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Invention III, or the microarrays of Inventions V-VII to function. Rather, the methods of Inventions VIII, IX, and XI can operate without the specifics of any of the aforementioned groups.

9. Invention I is unrelated to Inventions IV-VII. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case, the liquid composition of Invention I is not a required component of the microarrays of the other groups.

10. Invention II is unrelated to Inventions III-VII. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case, the liquid composition of Invention II is not a required component of the matrix or microarrays of the other groups.

11. Invention III is unrelated to Inventions IV-VII. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case, the matrix of Invention III is not required of the microarrays of the other groups.

12. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above, have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification and recognized divergent subject matter, and the search required for one group is not required of the others, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

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13. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

14. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kartic Padmanabhan whose telephone number is 703-305-0509. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:30-5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Long Le can be reached on 703-305-3399. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-746-5207 for regular communications and 703-305-3014 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0196.

Kartic Padmanabhan
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 1641

September 6, 2002


LONG V. LE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1600
09/12/02